

# Data and Improvements

## Healthcare in Jail and Wellpath Compliance

Maureen Earls  
Criminal Justice Reform  
Workgroup



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS<sup>®</sup>  
OF SANTA BARBARA

# Criminal Justice Reform Workgroup

- Goal: Advocate for improved and humane conditions in our County jails.
- Morning focus: Data that assesses if Wellpath is complying, within required timelines, with healthcare standards for the jail.
- Workgroup supports increased County monitoring to achieve compliance

# Murray Case

2017 Federal lawsuit filed against Santa Barbara County and the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office alleging:

**“failure to provide minimally adequate medical and mental health care to people in our jails.”**

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15 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
16 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

17  
18 CLAY MURRAY, DAVID FRANCO,  
SHAREEN WINKLE, MARIA  
19 TRACY, ERICK BROWN, on behalf  
of themselves and all others similarly  
20 situated,

21 Plaintiffs,

22 v.

23  
24 COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA,  
and SANTA BARBARA COUNTY  
25 SHERIFF'S OFFICE,

26 Defendants.  
27  
28

Case No. 2:17-cv-08805-GW-JPR

**CLASS ACTION**

**STIPULATED JUDGMENT**

Complaint Filed: December 6, 2017

# EXHIBIT A

## Remedial Plan

July 2020 Santa Barbara County and the Sheriff's Office agreed on **Remedial Plan** detailing specific required actions to measure for each of 6 areas

1. Medical Care
2. Mental Health
3. Suicide Prevention
4. Disability Accommodations
5. Environmental Safety
6. Custody Operations (including grievances)

*Murray v. County of Santa Barbara*  
**Remedial Plan**

County's Department of Public Health and Behavioral Wellness shall actively monitor the Jail health care contract with any private health care services provider.

Full compliance deadline 2023



# Implementation Delay Remedial Plan

December 2022

County notified Murray Case attorneys that they were unable to meet jail renovation deadlines. The parties began negotiating and entered into a Stipulation to extend the deadline of jail renovations.

August 2023

All parties agreed to an **Implementation Delay Plan** which included 14 additional measures related to healthcare requirements.

# 14 Additional Healthcare Measures and Deadlines

## Implementation Delay

1. Improving Drug/Alcohol Withdrawal Monitoring
2. Activation of Specialized Mental Health Units
3. Access to Inpatient Level of Mental Health Care
4. Ending Segregation/Isolation Housing for People with Serious Mental Illness
5. Use of Adequate ADA/Disability Tracking System
6. Addressing Deficiencies in ADA/Disability Accessibility
7. Addressing Systemic Issues Related to Cleanliness, Sanitation, Clothing, and Food Service

# 14 Additional Healthcare Measures and Deadlines Implementation Delay

8. Ensuring Minimum Out-of-Cell Time
9. Staffing for Health Care Services
10. Jail Population Reduction Efforts
11. Mitigation of Structural Suicide Hazards
12. Policy Revisions to Align with Remedial Plan Requirements
13. Revisions to Restrictive Housing Tracking System
14. Discharge Planning Improvements

# Implementation Delay Remedial Plan

## Current

Wellpath is the contracted healthcare provider working on meeting compliance with the Implementation Delay Plan.





# Summary of Compliance Plans

**Murray Case:** Alleging a failure to provide minimally adequate medical and mental health care to those housed in Santa Barbara County jails.

**Remedial Plan:** All parties negotiated and agreed upon a Remedial Plan, which the court approved, to address all issues involved in the Murray Case allegations.

**Implementation Delay Remedial Plan:** The County and the Sheriff's office is working on full compliance.



# Wellpath Oversight Plan

Board of Supervisors recognize that our County needs improved monitoring of Wellpath's performance.

December 2023 Board of Supervisors approved a new County Wellpath Oversight Plan.

Public Health and Behavioral Wellness have an increased role in Wellpath Oversight in cooperation with the Sheriff's office.



# Workgroup Goal

The workgroup supports the collection of data which can allow for a determination of whether high-quality healthcare is being provided.

Goal is to achieve full compliance with the Implementation Delay Plan standards within the required deadlines

# How Do We Get There?

- We ask that in the renewal of the Wellpath contract, the County, Wellpath, and Sheriff's Office **accept language that ensures a transparent County oversight procedure, including language for the roles of Public Health and Behavioral Wellness clinical staff and monitoring.** To be approved in April 2024.
- We support the new Behavioral Wellness monthly monitoring tools for Wellpath compliance. Includes increased written reviews of county jails monitoring:
  - Intake Procedures
  - Ongoing Services
  - Crisis Services
  - Discharge Planning

## 2 Quarterly Reports Received


- Provide evidence of written accountability and specific recommendations for improvement as needed.
- Follow-up progress achieved by Wellpath.
- Example of areas not in full compliance.
  - Only 1 of 15 charts recently reviewed shows compliance with standard requiring provision of appropriate interventions 3 times per week for people who suffer mental illness and in restrictive housing.
  - 12 of 36 measures were not in compliance.

# In Conclusion The Workgroup:

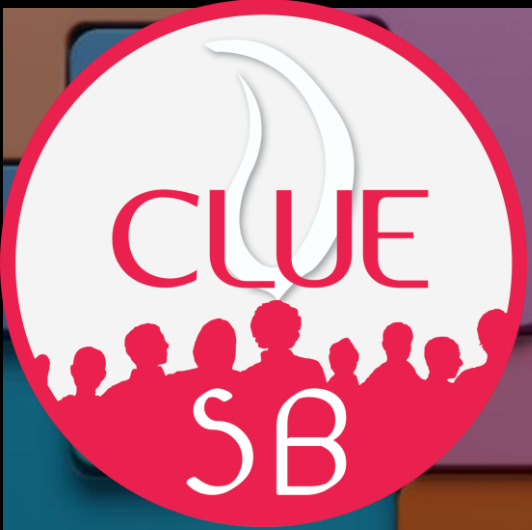
Strongly concerned for people housed in jail who are being harmed due to lack of compliance with required healthcare standards.

**60% (over 400 people) have documented mental health needs.**

**Ask Board of Supervisors to require Wellpath renewal contract to clearly state the increased role for County monitoring of compliance with Court-required healthcare standards and timelines, reporting data on performance, and determine consequences should Wellpath not achieve full compliance.**



We can all agree that every Santa Barbara community member - including people in County jail - deserves quality medical and mental health care.



**Thank You**

**CLUE SB / LWV SB**  
[cluesb.org](http://cluesb.org)  
[lwvsantabarbara.org](http://lwvsantabarbara.org)

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